465 489 The above table shows clearly that the producers have to pay heavy charges when porters are engaged which becomes inevitable particularly when the distance to market is very long or the way to the market is difficult to negotiate. The table shows that out of a total of 45 markets with which the people in the 28 selected villages use to carry on transactions, 10 are situated at a distance of 5 to 10 miles, while 13 are situated more than 10 miles away from the village. Considering the fact that transport is to be done by head-load only, marketing of the agricultural produce is indeed a difficult task. The transport charges to be paid are also high. It is seen from the above table that out of the 45 markets, transport charges to as many as 11 markets work out to be higher than Rs. 2 a maund.

474 4.9 **Co-operation** - Twelve co-operative societies were met within the selected villages. Out of these as many as 7 were engaged in marketing or trading. These organisations grew up sometime earlier under direct sponsorship of Government but mostly at the initiative of the villagers themselves to meet certain situations. The following statement shows a list of the co-operative societies in the sample villages.

TABLE B-8

Name of village	Name of society	Sponsored by
(1)	(2)	(3)
1. Syndai ...	Marketing Society	Government.
2. Raitong ...	(1) Women Welfare Association.	Local people.
	(2) A Credit Co-operative Association.	
3. Nartiang ...	(1) Trading Co-operative Society.	Do.
	(2) Credit Society for the Improvement of the lot of farmers.	
6. Araki ..	Marketing Society	Government
9. Pathorkhmah ...	The Mulberry Garden Co-operative Society.	Local people
4. Mukhaiahlah ...	Trading Co-operative Society.	Do.

Name of village (1)	Name of society (2)	Sponsored by (3)
7. Sutnga ...	(1) Credit Society.	Local people
	(2) Co-operative Trading Society.	
8. Darrang ...	Marketing Society.	Do
9. Shella ..	Trading Co-operative Society.	Do.

4.10 **Cottage Industries.**—It has already been mentioned that Village and Cottage Industries are not very popular in the district.

The following table shows the industries reported from the sample villages:—

TABLE B-9

Industry (1)	No. of villages reporting existence of the industries. (2)	No. of villages reporting production for sale. (3)
Cane and bamboo works ...	9	7
Blacksmithy ...	5	5
Tailoring	2	2
Handloom	...	...
Weaving and Spinning ...	3	1
Rearing of cocoons, etc. ...	1	1
Rearing of lac	1	1
Others	2	1

Blacksmithy and making of baskets, cane products, etc., out of cane and bamboo, are a traditional occupation. Weaving and spinning of cotton, rearing of endi cocoon and weaving of endi, etc., are in vogue only in the Bhoi area and the areas adjoining Kamrup and North Cachar and Mikir Hills districts. Lac rearing is found in the northern portion of the district, *i.e.*, Nongpoh area.

Except cane and bamboo works and blacksmithy other industries are practised in a very limited scale. There is thus a lot of scope for introducing cottage industries in the district.